



May 23, 2017

Ex Parte Notice

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Monday, May 22, 2017, the undersigned, on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), met with Jay Schwarz, wireline advisor to Chairman Ajit Pai, and Pamela Arluk and Ian Forbes from the Wireline Competition Bureau.

During this conversation, NTCA discussed the implications of rural local exchange carriers (“RLECs”) electing “private carriage” treatment of broadband transmission facilities for purposes of availing themselves of relief with respect to universal service fund (“USF”) contribution obligations. *See Connect America Fund, et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.*, Report and Order, Order and Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 31 FCC Rcd 3087, 3160 (2016) (“*Rate of Return Reform Order*”), at n. 428; *Connect America Fund, et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.*, Order, DA 16-1661, 31 FCC Rcd 6862-63 (rel. June 15, 2016), at ¶¶ 23-25; *see also Ex Parte* Letter from Michael R. Romano, Sr. Vice President, NTCA to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”), WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed Nov. 21, 2016), at 1-2. NTCA urged the Commission to consider options to enable RLECs to avail themselves of the relief contemplated by the *Rate of Return Reform Order* without putting at risk receipt of USF support as also contemplated by that order and by federal law more generally.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael R. Romano

Michael R. Romano
Senior Vice President –
Industry Affairs & Business Development

cc: Jay Schwarz
Pamela Arluk
Ian Forbes